

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 16 as follows:

Surface modification is a science whose purpose is to alter the natural state of the surface of a material to give it a characteristic more suitable for a specific application. Surface modification techniques rarely involve altering the characteristics of material deeper than a few hundred atomic layers inside the material. Surface modification is used to physically roughen a material to improve the adhesion of another material that will be deposited on the modified surface. It is used to expose unbound atomic bonds to make them available for covalent attachment to molecules that are introduced onto the material surface. It is used to clean the material surface and remove loosely bound particles. It can also be used to mark a surface by depositing or removing nanometer ~~nanometer~~ deep layers of material, or somehow roughening the surface to expose a visible contrast. It is typically thought of as only altering a material in two dimensions (just the surface, with no depth).